

Seven major river basins drain the 1,087mi² N.H. coastal watershed to the Atlantic Ocean. The region includes diverse ecosystems such as coastal bays, Appalachian hardwood forest, agricultural lands, tidal rivers, salt marshes, and freshwater rivers, lakes and ponds.



Eric Aldrich/The Nature Conservancy



The watershed topography ranges from forested, hilly uplands in the north and west, to coastal plains and salt marshes in the east near the Atlantic Coast. Great

Bay Estuary (17mi²) and Hampton Harbor Estuary (7.8mi²) are N.H.'s only estuarine resources.

The high rate of new commercial and residential development occurring in the N.H. seacoast area has left the few remaining natural ecosystems highly susceptible to the loss of native diversity and wildlife habitat due to the encroachment of invasive plant species.



In response to this threat, the N.H. Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership was formed to coordinate regional invasive plant management. The N.H. coastal watershed provides a perfect location and scale to initiate one of the first partnerships of its kind in New England, particularly

given the alignment of partners' activities and dedication to controlling invasive species.

Why do we care?

- Invasive species are recognized as one of the greatest threats faced by land managers.
- Invasive plants displace native vegetation and change habitats in ways that make lands and waters inaccessible or undesirable to native wildlife.
- Native plant species often cannot compete with invasive plants, and diverse native habitats can become replaced by a monoculture of a single invasive species resulting in a drastic reduction in plant species diversity.
- The consequences of invasive species infestations may result in changes to food-web interactions and ecosystem processes such as flooding and fire.
- Our rarest species are vulnerable to local extirpation if invasive plants become established within their habitats.

CWIPP PARTNERS



New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership



Will Cook



Scott Sherman



The mission of the New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership is to protect the ecological integrity of natural habitats and economic vitality of managed lands in New Hampshire's coastal watershed through activities that reduce the threat of invasive plants.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL WATERSHED INVASIVE PLANT PARTNERSHIP GOALS:

PREVENTION

RESTORATION & CONTROL

ASSESSMENT & MONITORING

COOPERATION & COLLABORATION

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Prevention



Prevention is the best strategy for effective invasive plant control.

CWIPP works with community volunteers to implement early detection-rapid response initiatives to ensure that invasive plants new to the region do not become permanently established in the coastal watershed of New Hampshire.

CWIPP early detection-rapid response efforts will initially focus on perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), a recent invader in N.H.'s salt marshes.

Restoration and Control



Native plants are being strangled, choked, shaded-out, or toppled by invasive shrubs, vines, and trees.

CWIPP works with municipalities, private landowners, and state and federal land managers to implement projects to control invasive plants and restore native habitats.

The picture above is a CWIPP project located in Newcastle, N.H. where a rare native pitch pine forest was freed from the vines of oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*).

Assessment and Monitoring



Pre and post project monitoring are critical to measuring progress.

CWIPP is committed to the coordinated assessment, mapping, and evaluation of invasive plant control projects in the CWIPP Management Area.

CWIPP partners have mapped invasive plants on more than 2,000 acres in N.H.'s Coastal Watershed using unified protocols for GIS data collection that are housed in a shared database.

Cooperation and Collaboration



Invasive plants know no boundaries. They span landscapes and property boundaries, making cooperation essential.

A growing number of partners are joining CWIPP to combat the threat of invasive plants and to protect native ecosystems. CWIPP is committed to consensus building and collaboration between stakeholders.

CWIPP Partners include state and federal agencies, nonprofit conservation groups, municipalities, and landowners.

Outreach and Education



Eric Aldrich/The Nature Conservancy

Land owner involvement is important to success.

CWIPP organizes workshops and trainings to educate landowners on the threats of invasive plants, plant identification, and invasive plant control methods.

CWIPP partners provide additional assistance to private landowners such as lending tools, technical guidance, and funding assistance.